

What is the purpose of the IAFET certification examination?

The IAFET certification examination tests for professional translation skills. It is designed to determine whether a candidate is able to produce a translation that is professionally usable within the framework provided by the Translation Instructions.

The skills in question are defined by the positive answers to four broad questions:

1. Does the translation demonstrate compliance with the specifications of the Translation Instructions?

Yes, if:

The translation is usable and intelligible in the specified context.

Register, style, and wording match comparable documents written in the target language.

2. Does the translation demonstrate understanding of the overall content, purpose, and argument of the examination passage?

Yes, if:

Attention to and understanding of the topic are used to help solve challenges and arrive at a correct rendering.

Attention to and understanding of the topic help the candidate use dictionaries competently.

Everything integral to the source text is included in the target text and nothing that is not implicitly or explicitly stated by the author is added.

Accurate analysis of the source text ensures that the target text reflects the view, argument, or presented information on all levels (text, sentence, and word).

3. Does the translation demonstrate competent familiarity with translation strategies of various kinds?

Yes, if:

View, argument, and information are presented appropriately for the target culture.

Syntax is appropriate to the target language; the target text does not necessarily imitate the sentence structure of the source text.

Idioms in the source text are rendered so as to convey a comparable meaning in the target text.

Wording is as unambiguous as possible.

4. Does the translation demonstrate good writing in the target language?

Yes, if:

The target text flows smoothly and does not contain awkward expressions that mark it distinctly as a translation.

There are few or no mechanical errors (relating to grammar, usage, spelling, or punctuation).

How to Apply

Candidates who wish to apply for the test, please send an email to secretary@iafet.org, with the subject “request to join”; and a member of the support team will walk you through the whole process.

